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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022)

The Senate met at 3 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, enthroned in holiness, we lift our praise to You. We praise You for Your might, mercy, and majesty. Great is Your faithfulness. Because of Your mercies, we are not consumed.

Lord, give our lawmakers the wisdom to place their trust in You, for You have been their help in ages past and continue to be their hope for tomorrow.

Today, may they claim Your promise to guide them through time into eternity. When their strength is gone, renew them anew.

We pray in Your magnificent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with the Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Friday, our country received another extraordinary bit of news about the state of our economic recovery. Last month, the economy created 467,000 new jobs, far exceeding all expectations. This comes on the heels of news that our economy grew at its fastest rate in decades last year.

With last week's jobs numbers, the U.S. economy now has added a total of 6.6 million jobs in President Biden's

first year in office. Let me say that again. In 1 year alone, the economy has added a whopping 6.6 million jobs back to the economy—the most ever recorded for a President's first year. This includes the creation of 367,000 manufacturing jobs—the most in 30 years.

For all the difficulties of the past 2 years and for the real challenges our economy faces today, this jobs number is a remarkable milestone. It is a reminder that who gets elected to office makes a big difference.

A year ago, Democrats promised to fix the mess our country was in after President Trump botched our pandemic response. We promised to lift our economy out of the abyss, to get people back to work, back to the classroom, and to do it safely by following the science. It is why Democrats worked furiously last year to pass the American Rescue Plan. It is why the Senate came together to pass USICA, which we will work to enact into law in the near future. It is why we came together to pass a historic, bipartisan infrastructure package that is now putting people back to work fixing our roads, bridges, internet, lead piping, and so much more.

With 6.6 million jobs gained and record economic growth in our first year, Democrats are delivering on our promise. And it is not just that job creation exceeded expectations; wages for American workers grew in 2021, and indications from top forecasters are that wages will continue to grow in 2022.

A year into executing our Democratic agenda, the American economy is in the midst of a historic turnaround, but the job is not over. Even as wages are up, Democrats are taking action to lower costs. We need to help everyday families afford the daily essentials, just as we need to relieve our supply chains and rebuild American manufacturing, including by focusing on critical technologies like semiconductors.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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